

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

OMB-01 IO-13 RSR-01 /109 W

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R 071403Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 546

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

UNCLAS BELFAST 8124

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO DRAFT STANDING ORDERS NAMED

REF: BELFAST 117

1. THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO DRAFT STANDING ORDERS FOR THE N.I. ASSEMBLY WAS NAMED ON AUGUST 6 BY THE PRESIDING OFFICER, NAT MINFORD. THE EIGHT MEMBERS NAMED WERE HERBERT KIRK AND JAMES STRONG (UNIONIST), IVAN COOPER AND AUSTIN CURRIE (SDLP), BASIL GLASS (ALLIANCE), AUSTIN ARDILL (UNPLEDGED UNIONIST), WILLIAM CRAIG (VUPP) AND IAN PAISLEY (DUP).

2. THE COMMITTEE, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO MEET IN A FEW DAYS, WILL HAVE NO EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY, BUT WILL DETERMINE THE EXACT FORM OF STANDING ORDERS AND FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETINGS WHICH WILL THEN BE SUBMITTED TO THE ASSEMBLY FOR APPROVAL.

3. CRAIG SAID HE WILL NOT SERVE ON THE COMMITTEE, STILL CONTENDING THE RULEMAKING BODY SHOULD BE CHOSEN BY THE WHOLE ASSEMBLY RATHER THAN BY THE PRESIDING OFFICER. PAISLEY, WHO WAS NOT AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT, MAY FOLLOW SUIT. HOWEVER, ARDILL SAID HE WOULD PARTICIPATE WHICH MAY INDICATE THE LOYALIST - UNPLEDGED UNIONIST VOTING BLOC MAY NOT BE AS COHERENT AS
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EXPECTED.

4. THE EXPECTED BOYCOTT OF ONE OR POSSIBLY TWO MEMBERS IS UNLIKELY TO SABOTAGE THE COMMITTEE'S WORK AS THOSE PLEDGED TO MAKE THE ASSEMBLY WORK CAN CLAIM THE LOYALISTS WERE GIVEN A CHANCE TO HAVE A SAY ON THE STANDING ORDERS ISSUE. THE NAMING OF THE COMMITTEE, WHICH APPEARS TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OPINION IN THE ASSEMBLY, WAS INTERPRETED LOCALLY AS A SIGNIFICANT STEP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY AS A FORM OF GOVERNMENT.
SINGER

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